Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center

Integrity - Service - Excellence

AFDD 2-1.6 *Personnel Recovery Operations*

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Summary of Revisions

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[AFDD 2-1.6] is substantially revised [in structure as well as in substance] … [It] reflects a clarification of the Air Force position on personnel recovery operations (PRO). The casual observer may consider that the term PRO replaced the long-established term of combat search and rescue (CSAR). To the contrary, AFDD 2-1.6 clarifies that Air Force philosophy on PRO—CSAR remains a critical element of the overall construct. Chapter 1 explains how PRO fits within the joint personnel recovery (PR) construct and refines the Air Force philosophy on the PRO mission area. Chapter 2 expounds on the joint PR system, describes the Air Force vision of the joint personnel recovery cell and of the five tasks of PR. Chapter 3 analyzes CSAR as the preferred mechanism of accomplishing the recovery task. Chapter 4, as in the previous edition, remains a discussion of planning and support considerations. Similarly, chapter 5 remains a review of training and education requirements. Chapters 4 and 5 have been condensed and streamlined since the last edition. Overall, the document has remained focused on the fundamental PRO Service beliefs and has steered away from tactical level doctrine that is thoroughly explained in Air Force TTP documents.

Foreword

…until recently, each Service tackled the personnel recovery conundrum unilaterally…Experiences during Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, as well as lessons learned and relearned since the demise of the Soviet Union suggest that each Service must do a better job of integrating doctrine [and] TTP. In order to clarify each Service's responsibilities, with regard to personnel recovery, the CJCS established a new directive in July 2004. [CJCSI 3270.01A] outlines the Department of Defense's personnel recovery concept and serves as a starting point for this document. Based on this and other guidance, each Service has had to reconsider the doctrine that outlines how each organizes, trains, and equips forces capable of providing an integrated joint capability to Combatant Commanders.

AFDD 2-1.6 establishes Air Force perspective on the joint [JP 3-50] PR construct. It shifts focus from the rescue of aircrews to the recovery of any isolated personnel. Although the Air Force has always been committed to the recovery of any isolated personnel, previous AFDDs have overly focused on the rescue of aircrews. While the Air Force will continue to maintain its natural emphasis on the recovery of Airmen, this AFDD refines our doctrinal sight picture and affirms that Air Force personnel recovery forces remain committed to the recovery of any isolated personnel.

Maj Gen Bentley B. Rayburn, AFDC/CC

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Foundational Doctrine Statements

Foundational doctrine statements are the basic principles and beliefs upon which AFDDs are built. Other information in the AFDDs expands on or supports these statements.

- Air Force personnel recovery operations (PRO) reflect a number of specific tasks performed by Air Force units to recover isolated personnel throughout the entire spectrum of conflict.
- Although traditionally PRO assets have focused on the recovery of downed aircrews, recent experiences suggest that Air Force PRO forces are responsible for the recovery of any isolated personnel.
- The primary mission of Air Force PRO is to utilize a combination of specially trained Airmen and unique equipment to recover any isolated personnel.
- Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) is how the Air Force accomplishes the PR recovery task. It is the Air Force's preferred mechanism for personnel recovery in uncertain or hostile environments and denied areas.

Foundational Doctrine Statements (cont.)

- Although Airmen may place natural emphasis on the recovery of fellow Airmen, Air Force PRO philosophy is based on the assumption that PRO forces must be prepared to recover any isolated personnel anytime, anyplace.
- PRO represents the Air Force's coordinated actions and efforts that support the joint PR system, while CSAR is the Air Force's method of choice for accomplishing the recovery task in uncertain, denied, or hostile environments.
- There are three CSAR components: the command, control, and coordination node, the recovery forces, and the isolated personnel.
- The objective of the CSAR task force is the successful recovery of isolated personnel with no additional loss of friendly assets.
- In order to improve mission planning effectiveness, it is optimal to co-locate all dedicated PRO forces.

Foundational Doctrine Statements (cont.)

- The COMAFFOR/JFACC should consider the capabilities of the host nation, other Service/functional components, and multinational forces during all phases of PR mission planning.
- Early identification of requirements, inclusion in the force enhancement/flexible deterrent option, appropriate PRO priority in the flow of time phased force and deployment data, and frequent reevaluations are keys to sustaining PRO support.
- The success of PRO is dependent upon comprehensive education and rigorous training at all levels.

Personnel Recovery Operations Essential Tasks

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- Report…awareness and notification initiate the PRO process.
- Locate…Some methods include: theater electronic surveillance, reconnaissance, C2 aircraft, global satellites, wingman reports, and visual search by PRO forces…includes authenticating isolated personnel (IP)
- Support…the planned effort necessary to ensure the physical and psychological sustainment of IP.
- Recover…activities by commanders, staff, recovery force, and IP to physically recover the IP…generally there are two types of PR response postures: from alert and deliberate
- Reintegrate…begins when the recovery force relinquishes physical control of previously isolated personnel to a designated team member or organization in the theater reintegration process…PRO forces collect perishable essential intelligence and survival, evasion, resistance, escape information, while at the same time tending to the physical and psychological welfare of recovered IP.

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AFDD 2-1.6-specific Definitions

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- **airborne mission coordinator.** The coordinator who serves as an extension of the executing component's personnel recovery coordination cell (PRCC) and coordinates the recovery effort between the combat search and rescue task force (CSARTF) and the PRCC (or joint personnel recovery center) by monitoring the status of all CSARTF elements, requesting additional assets when needed, and ensuring the recovery and supporting forces arrive at their designated areas to accomplish the PR mission. The component PRCC or higher authority may designate the AMC. The AMC appoints, as necessary, an on-scene commander. Also called **AMC**.

- **combat search and rescue.** Combat search and rescue is how the Air Force accomplishes the personnel recovery task. It is the Air Force's preferred mechanism for personnel recovery execution in uncertain or hostile environments and denied areas. Also called **CSAR**.

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AFDD 2-1.6-specific Definitions

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- **joint personnel recovery center.** A primary joint personnel recovery (PR) node. The center is suitably staffed by supervisory personnel and equipped for planning, coordinating, and executing joint PR within the geographical area assigned to the joint force. The facility is operated jointly by personnel from two or more Service or functional components or it may have a multinational staff of personnel from two or more allied or coalition nations. Also called **JPRC**.

- **on-scene commander.** The person designated to coordinate the personnel recovery efforts at the recovery site. Also called **OSC**.

- **personnel recovery.** The sum of military, diplomatic, and civil efforts to effect the recovery and return of US Military, DOD civilians, and DOD contractor personnel who are isolated or missing while participating in a US government-sanctioned military activity or missions in an uncertain or hostile environment, or as determined by the Secretary of Defense. Also called **PR**.

AFDD 2-1.6-specific Definitions

- **personnel recovery coordination cell.** A primary personnel recovery facility suitably staffed by supervisory personnel and equipped for coordinating and controlling personnel recovery operations. The facility is operated unilaterally by personnel of a single Service or jointly by functional component. For Navy component operations, this facility may be called a rescue coordination team. Also called **PRCC** (or **RCT** for Navy component).

- **recovery teams.** Designated Air Force teams specifically trained to operate independently or in conjunction with rotary wing / fixed wing aircraft, watercraft and overland vehicles. Combat rescue officers (CRO), pararescue specialists and survival, evasion, resistance, escape specialists, provide this capability. Also called **RT**

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Questions?

At the heart of warfare lies doctrine